

## In the Community

- Launch a public education campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of firearms, and the risks of keeping a gun in the home.
- Report stolen weapons and carry and use violations to law enforcement.
- Work with your Neighborhood Watch or other group to hold a forum on how guns and violence affect the community. Include police, schools, youth, local government, youth agencies, and religious organizations.
- Ask local officials to advocate a variety of ways to prevent gun violence, such as strict local regulation of dealers with Federal Firearms Licenses, consumer protection regulations governing weapons manufacture, taxes on ammunition, bans on assault weapons, gun turn-in days, and liability legislation.

*Each year, guns end the lives of thousands of young people. Their families and friends are left to cope with the loss of a life barely lived and to face a future overshadowed by violence.*

## For More Information

*Center to Prevent Handgun Violence*  
1225 Eye Street, NW, Room 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-289-7319

*Education Fund to End Handgun Violence*  
100 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-544-7227

*National School Safety Center*  
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard  
Suite 290  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
805-373-9977

*Pacific Center for Violence Prevention*  
San Francisco General Hospital  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-285-1793

*Violence Policy Center*  
2000 P Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-822-8200



*Crime Prevention Tips From*  
**National Crime Prevention Council**  
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
*and*

Montgomery County Government  
Department of Police • Crime Prevention Unit  
(301) 840-2585

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# DEALING WITH GUN VIOLENCE



# TAKE ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE!



**I**n television, the daily news, and conversations — guns seize our attention and fuel our fears.

## GUNS BY THE NUMBERS

- Every day 15 children under the age of 19 are killed by gunfire, and many more are injured.
- Homicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 19. For black males ages 10 to 19, it's the leading cause of death. Most are committed with firearms — especially handguns.
- An estimated 1.2 million elementary-aged, latchkey children have access to guns in their homes.

A child between 10 and 19 years old commits suicide with a handgun every six hours.

- Although the U.S. regulates the safety of countless products including teddy bears, blankets, toys, and pajamas, it does not regulate the safety of firearms.
- The average hospital bill for treating a child wounded by gunfire is \$14,434 — enough to pay for a year of college.

## TAKE ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE!

### At Home

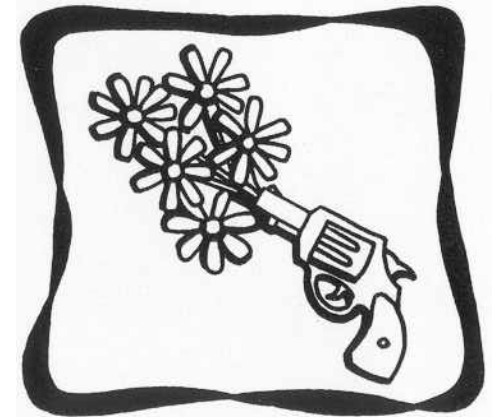
- Teach children — from preschoolers to teenagers — that guns and other weapons hurt and kill.
- Show children how to settle arguments without resorting to words or actions that hurt. Parents, relatives, older brothers and sisters, teachers, and baby-sitters should set a positive example.
- Consider removing guns, especially handguns, from homes with children or teens.
- Look at ways other than firearms to protect yourself. Invest in top grade locks, jamming devices for doors and windows, a dog, a security system. Start or join a Neighborhood Watch. Ask police to recommend a self-defense class.
- If you choose to own firearms — handguns, rifles, or shotguns — make sure they are unloaded and securely stored.



Invest in trigger locks, gun cabinets with a lock, or pistol lock boxes. Lock up ammunition separately.

### At School

- Support school staff in their efforts to keep guns, knives, and other weapons out of schools.
- Encourage students to report any weapons they know about on school grounds to the police or school authorities.



- Involve youth. Young people can and do organize against handgun violence.
- Show students how to settle arguments without resorting to violence. Teach them to deal with conflict by calming down, identifying the problem, compromising, and asking someone else to listen to both sides.